Sal2 protein level in a mammal not having or being at risk of acquiring said proliferative disease;

(b) determining the presence or absence of an altered Sal2 protein in said mammal relative to a Sal2 protein in a mammal not having or being at risk of acquiring a said proliferative disease; or

(c) determining the presence or absence of a proliferative disease-associated alteration in a *Sal2* nucleic acid in said mammal relative to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 2 and SEQ ID NO.:4, wherein a decrease in said SAL2 protein level in step (a) or the presence of an alteration in steps (b) or (c) identifies a mammal as having or being at risk of acquiring a proliferative disease.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:

(i) contacting a first nucleic acid probe which is specific for binding to a human *Sal2* nucleic acid containing a proliferative disease-associated alteration with a nucleic acid from a cell from said mammal under conditions which allow said first nucleic acid probe to anneal to complementary sequences in said cell; and

(ii) detecting duplex formation between said first nucleic acid probe and said complementary sequences.